

6. (Amended) A flame arrester according to claim 1 wherein the tubes carrying a cooling fluid are arranged upstream of the plurality.

8. (Amended) A flame arrester according to claim 1 wherein the rods are in rows transverse thereto and to the flow direction, each row being offset with respect to an adjacent row thereby to require a circuitous flow path.

10. (Amended) A flame arrester according to claim 1 further comprising a scraping device disposed between the rods to remove deposits thereon.

14. (Amended) A flame arrester according to claim 1 wherein the flow passage is cylindrical, the axis of the cylinder being aligned with the flow direction.

Please cancel claim 15.

16. (Amended) An assembly of a flame arrester according to any preceding claim with a reducer fitted on at least one side thereof to reduce the size of the flow passage.

18. (Amended) An assembly according to claim 16 wherein the reducer is attached to the arrester by way of flanges on each part which are bolted together.

REMARKS

Applicant amends claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 14, 16, 18 and cancels claim 15. The claims have been amended to address minor formal matters to conform the claims with U.S. Patent practice. The foregoing amendments are being made for reasons unrelated to patentability.

Entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is respectfully in order and requested.

If there are any questions regarding the amendments to the application, we invite the Examiner to call Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP



Anthony A. Laurentano
Registration No. 38,220
Attorney for Applicant

28 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 227-7400
Date: 10 May 2001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 14, 16, and 18.

3. (Amended) A flame arrester according to any preceding claim in which claim 1 wherein the rods are of solid material.

4. (Amended) A flame arrester according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which wherein the rods are tubes.

6. (Amended) A flame arrester according to any preceding claim in which claim 1 wherein the tubes carrying a cooling fluid are arranged upstream of the plurality.

8. (Amended) A flame arrester according to any preceding claim in which claim 1 wherein the rods are in rows transverse thereto and to the flow direction, each row being offset with respect to an adjacent row thereby to require a circuitous flow path.

10. (Amended) A flame arrester according to any preceding claim including claim 1 further comprising a scraping device disposed between the rods thereby to remove deposits thereon.

14. (Amended) A flame arrester according to any preceding claim in which claim 1 wherein the flow passage is cylindrical, the axis of the cylinder being aligned with the flow direction.

Please cancel claim 15.

16. (Amended) An assembly of a flame arrester according to any preceding claim with a reducer fitted on at least one side thereof, thereby to reduce the nominal size of the flow passage.

18. (Amended) An assembly according to claim 16 or claim 17 in which the or each wherein the reducer is attached to the arrester by way of flanges on each part which are bolted together.